**Report for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme**

94. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources expressed its concern in the Eighth Report over sitting on the evaluation report of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme submitted to the Ministry in December, 2006;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons put forward by the Ministry for delay in taking action; and

(c) what are the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (b) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in its 8th Report *inter alia* recommended to take urgent steps to process Reivew Report of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on AIBP. They desired to be informed of the progress made in this regard.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) decided to get the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) projects studied through 10 reputed organizations/consultants with a view to assess proer utilization of funds, management system, benefits accrued, bottlenecks in implementation and to suggest improvements for speedy completion of projects and early accurual of benefits to the people. The study was required to consider the data up to September, 2004. The MoSPI also appointed coordination consultant with the reponsibility to coordinate with all the consultants pertaining to different zones and to prepare a consolidated report.

The Final Report of July, 2007 was received in the Ministry of Water Resources for necessary action and was under consideration of the Ministry. The Ministry of Water Resources after examining the report has finalized its views on the conclusions contained in the report and the views of the Ministry has been communicated to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on 04.02.2008. The recommendations contained in the report on which decision has been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources for implementation by the State Government, has been communicated to the Central Water Commission.

**Dispute of water-sharing**

95. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with several hydro-power projects stuck due to disputes among States over water-sharing and related issues, the Ministry, plans to bring some rivers under Central

ambit by identifying them as "National Rivers" to tap their potential for hydro-power and irrigation;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry's proposal has been considered by Government; and

(c) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no proposal to bring any river under Central ambit by identifying it as National River. Government has already enacted Inter-State Water Dispute Act in 1956 for adjudication of water disputes and amended the same in 2002 for time bound adjudication of the disputes and the Act is now called Inter State River Water Dispute Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

**Damage to water bodies**

96. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the damage caused to the traditional inland water bodies like tanks and ponds due to neglect throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the steps being taken by Government to revitalize them; and

(c) whether Government would formulate a National Policy for revitalizing the inland water bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per 3rd Minor Irrigation Census, some of the Water Bodies/Tanks have fallen into disuse due to silting, poor maintenance, encroachment, etc.

(b) Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India approved a Pilot Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies directly linked to agriculture during 2004-05 in 15 States. Under the scheme, the Government has approved 1098 Water Bodies for 26 district projects in 15 States at an estimated cost of Rs. 299.92 crore. Some States have also taken up projects for restoration of water bodies with World Bank assistance. The Ministry of Environment and Forest also sanctioned proposals for conservation of 52 Lakes at an estimated cost of Rs. 687.52 crore.

(c) The National Water Policy, 2002 has laid due emphasis on planning, development and management of water resources. The policy also states that the resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by various means which *inter alia* includeds modernization and rehabilitation of existing tanks.

**Funds allocated under Accelerated Irrigation Programme**

†97. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission have allocated Rs. 125 crores under the Accelerated Irrigation Programme during the year 2007-08;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi